

SITUATION REPORT NO. 69
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: October 23, 1997 TIME: 2:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Recent rains have caused the level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay to rise .11 feet during the past two weeks to 1442.53 feet MSL on October 22.
4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The North Dakota Disaster Recovery Coordinating Team, a group of volunteer organizations dedicated to assisting people recover from disaster-related trauma, has developed a brochure entitled "Pulling Together in 1997". The brochure was designed to help identify individuals with unmet disaster-related needs and to let them know that help is available. Brochures may be obtained from the State Capitol, 14th Floor, Office of Intergovernmental Assistance, in Bismarck. The telephone number is (701)328-4198.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: To date, 24,443 awards have been approved for nearly \$52.8 million in Disaster Housing assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The Individual and Family Grant Program (IFGP), administered by the Division of Emergency Management, has approved more than \$13,565,865 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFGP grant is \$1,313. The staff has closed 22,960 cases, which continues to represent 99 percent of the cases.

As of October 22, the Public Assistance staff had received 3614 Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) and has obligated funds to 3,352 DSRs. Survey work has been completed for 359 of the 440 applicants for the 1997 flood. More than \$105.9 million in infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal has been determined to be eligible in the declared counties.

Job Service North Dakota made the last Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) payments from the week ending October 11, 1997.

DUA payments are made to residents who don't qualify for state unemployment insurance and who are unemployed as a direct result of the disaster. Business owners, farmers, farm workers, and migrant and seasonal workers, and others who lost work due to the inclement winter and spring weather could apply for help.

Grand Forks County had the highest number of DUA claimants and the highest dollar amount paid. The county had 1,642 individuals who were paid \$1,262,339. Nine other counties had over \$100,000 in DUA payments. They are Barnes, Cass, Cavalier, McIntosh, Pembina, Ramsey, Stutsman, Traill, and Walsh. Residents in all 53 counties were eligible to apply for benefits.

In addition, \$3,382,358 was paid in flood-related state unemployment benefits to 7,237 individuals between April 21 and September 30. Flood-related state payments were available to workers whose employers pay job insurance taxes.

The Disaster Employment Assistance (DAP), a Job Training Partnership Act Title III program, was also implemented. It provides temporary disaster related jobs for people who lost jobs because of the spring disaster. As of September 30, 1997, a total of 647 individuals have worked at 43 work sites, with 346 still employed. Job Service received \$4.5 million in grants for the program.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved to date more than \$173.9 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals. The SBA has received 11,623 loan applications, 6,830 of which have been approved. Of the loans, 55 percent were to home owners and renters for real estate and personal property losses, and 45 percent were to business owners for repairs to businesses and for lost income.

The Department of Human Services has deployed 102 crisis counselors throughout North Dakota; the largest group of 55 counselors is located in Grand Forks. Additional counselors will be added in two weeks. Workshops are being held that cover stress and coping with disaster. These workshops are offered to business owners, individuals, and parents of school children. Crisis counseling members continue to be involved in response to telephone calls for assistance. To date, they have responded to 47,000 inquiries.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Val Farmer workshops begin next week and are being conducted in Selfridge, New Salem, Mott, Killdeer, and Towner.
Web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>
N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>
N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>
N.D. Attorney General Office: <http://www.state.nd.us/ndag>
N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>
U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/index.html>

Douglas C. Friez, State Director